

#71B

M.L.

PATENT  
015389-002615 US  
018/211C

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Thomas R. Cech et al.

Application No.: 09/721,456

Filed: November 22, 2000

For: HUMAN TELOMERASE  
CATALYTIC SUBUNIT

Art Unit: 1651

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice to subsequent renewal or future prosecution.

Please add new claims 21-58 as follows.

-- 21. A method of drug screening or validation of a drug comprising:

- a) obtaining a drug or drug candidate;
- b) obtaining a cultured mammalian cell comprising a nucleic acid

sequence that encodes a telomerase reverse transcriptase protein, variant, or fragment having telomerase catalytic activity when complexed with a telomerase RNA, wherein the nucleic acid sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having a sequence complementary to SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the expression of the protein, variant, or fragment in the cell increases the proliferative capacity of the cell;

- c) administering the drug or drug candidate to the cultured cell; and